

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method for creating a stock certificate holdings record, comprising:  
receiving data related to a stock certificate;  
5 parsing said data to identify its constituent elements;  
creating a stock certificate holdings record for a holder identified in said  
data, said stock certificate holdings record based upon said constituent elements;  
and  
displaying a portion of said stock certificate holdings record to the holder  
10 over a computer network.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving step comprises receiving a  
data file from the issuer.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving step comprises said issuer  
uploading said data directly to a computer system configured to maintain stock  
certificate holdings records.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said parsing step includes a computer  
20 program comparing said data to an existing stock certificate holdings record to  
identify an error in said data.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein said error includes the existing stock  
certificate holdings record having a stock certificate number included in said data.  
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6. The method of claim 4, wherein said error includes the existing stock  
certificate holdings record having a first identifier of an issuer of a stock certificate  
and said data having a second identifier of the issuer.
- 30 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said creating step includes creating an  
account based on said data for the holder, said account providing access for said  
holder to said stock certificate holdings record.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein said creating step includes creating a holder  
35 record, said holder record including a link to said stock certificate holdings record.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said data describes a plurality of holders, such that said creating step and said displaying step are repeated for each of said plurality of holders.

5 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said computer network is the Internet.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said data is also related to a merger of two or more corporations.

10 12. The method of claim 1, wherein said data is also related to an acquisition of a first corporation by a second corporation.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein said data is also related to an initial public offering by a corporation.

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14. A computer program product for use in conjunction with a computer system, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium and a computer program mechanism embedded therein, the computer program mechanism comprising:

20 instructions for receiving data related to a stock certificate;  
instructions for parsing said data to identify its constituent elements;  
instructions for creating a stock certificate holdings record for a holder identified in said data, said stock certificate holdings record based upon said constituent elements; and

25 instructions for displaying a portion of said stock certificate holdings record to the holder over a computer network.

15. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein said data is a data file received from an issuer of the stock certificate.

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16. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein said computer program mechanism further comprises instructions for receiving said data when uploaded directly to the computer system, said computer system configured to maintain stock certificate holdings records.

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17. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein said computer program mechanism further comprises instructions for comparing said data to an existing stock certificate holdings record to identify an error in said data.

5 18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein said error includes the existing stock certificate holdings record having a stock certificate number included in said data.

19. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein said error includes the  
10 existing stock certificate holdings record having a first identifier of an issuer of a stock certificate and said data having a second identifier of the issuer.

20. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein said computer program mechanism further comprises instructions for creating an account based on said  
15 data for the holder, said account providing access to said stock certificate holdings record.

21. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein said computer program mechanism further comprises instructions for creating a holder record, said holder  
20 record including a link to said stock certificate holdings record.

22. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein said data describes a plurality of holders, such that said instructions for creating a stock certificate holdings record for a holder identified in said data and said instructions for  
25 displaying a portion of said stock certificate holdings record are executed for each of said plurality of holders.

23. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein said computer network is the Internet.  
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24. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein said data is also related to a merger of two or more corporations.

25. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein said data is also related  
35 to an acquisition of a first corporation by a second corporation.

26. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein said data is also related to an initial public offering by a corporation.

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